

## DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, HONEST ANSWERS

**The Question:** How much power does Satan have? Since there is no limit to his evil, does he have free reign to do whatever he wants in these days of approaching judgment?

**The Bible calls Satan:** *The god of this world, 2 Corinthians 4:4*  
*The ruler of this world, John 12:31*  
*The prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2*

**God has \_\_\_\_\_ sovereignty in His universe!**

*He works all things according to the counsel of His will. Ephesians 1:11*

**Lucifer was a \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Thus says the Lord God: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty...Every precious stone was your covering... On the day that you were created, they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub...You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you...Your heart was proud because of your beauty...You sinned, so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God. Ezekiel 28:11-19*

**What did Lucifer do in the days before he sinned?** *You were the anointed cherub...You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. Ezekiel 28:14*

**Why would Lucifer want to defy God?** *I will make myself like the Most High. Isaiah 14:14*

**Pride caused Lucifer to gamble his privileges away.** Even if he couldn't dethrone God, at least he could set up his \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere in the universe.

**Could Satan have repented?** Even if he had, he could not have been redeemed, because no sacrifice was made \_\_\_\_\_.

**He didn't come to Adam and Eve as Satan, the adversary of God. He came in disguise.** Jesus said that Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). The first thing he did was to lie about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Adam and Eve were judged. And God's eternal plan was revealed. God would not be mocked.** He said to Satan in Genesis 3:15: *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.* God would \_\_\_\_\_ in the battle. Satan would be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Despite hearing God's words, Satan didn't concede defeat.** He had been told he would be crushed. But he chose to play out the rest of the game even though each day the stakes would rise higher. He would strike back in the vain hope that \_\_\_\_\_ might yet be thwarted. Indeed, there were some moments when it looked like he might win. Better a vain hope than none at all.

**When Satan learned that he'd be crushed by the offspring of the woman—by someone who would be born on earth—he tried to kill anyone who looked like he might be the promised redeemer.** Though he knows his doom is sure, he fights as if he has a chance. But God holds the \_\_\_\_\_. God is sovereign. Satan never had a chance.

**Satan's primary strategy is directed against God's people.** In the Old Testament, his enemy was Israel—the people through whom the seed would come. In this age, the church is his enemy—the \_\_\_\_\_.



**During the first three centuries of Christianity, Satan tried to kill the church by waves of persecution** instigated by the Roman Empire. But the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church. No matter how many Christians he killed, \_\_\_\_\_ to take their place.

**After the time of Constantine, Satan stopped trying to kill the church but instead sought to corrupt her.** Christianity was the official religion of the Roman Empire so everyone was part of the church. Even today, through doctrinal \_\_\_\_\_ and moral degeneration, Satan continues his relentless pursuit of the people of God. He wants to \_\_\_\_\_ us, \_\_\_\_\_ us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

**All Satan's victories are illusory.** They give the appearance of victory but whenever he wins, \_\_\_\_\_ and the greater his punishment to come in the lake of fire. Satan's end is sure.

**Our victory is real.** We stand with Christ in His triumph. We participated in crushing Satan's head. Jesus' last word on the cross was "*tetelesti*." The Bible translates that word: *It is finished*. But it is a legal term that means \_\_\_\_\_.

*Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe, Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

**When Satan rebelled, God could have banished him.** He could have thrown him into the lake of fire, but He didn't. God kept Satan in this world for one reason: Satan had to play his part in the drama on planet earth. And he will play it \_\_\_\_\_ and not his own.

**What do these Bible verses say about what Satan is up to?**

*Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ.* 2 Corinthians 4:4

*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail, and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.* Luke 22:31–32

*The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.* Mark 4:15

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.* 1 Corinthians 10:13

*Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.* Revelation 2:10

*Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.* Ephesians 6:10–18

**The destruction of Satan in the lake of fire stands as a final witness to the fact that no creature who fights against God will ever win.** God \_\_\_\_\_. Beside Him there is no other.

**God holds absolute sway over the world.** No part of it is outside His control. \_\_\_\_\_ are in His hands.

"To all appearance, the present year will be more perilous than any I have seen, but if I live to complete the Persian New Testament, my life after that will be of less importance. But whether life or death be mind, may Christ be magnified in me! If He has work for me to do, I cannot die." —Henry Martyn, missionary to India and Persia

**This has often been paraphrased as "I am immortal until Christ's work for me is done."** This is profoundly true and it rests squarely on the reality that life and death are in the hands of our sovereign God.

"While I waited in the doctor's office for the biopsy machine to arrive, God could have said (which he did later), "Fear not. Whether you live or die, you will be with me. And in the meantime, while you live, nothing will happen to you—nothing!—that I do not appoint. If I decide, you will live. If I decide, you will die. And until you die at my decision, I will decide if you do this or that. Get to work." —John Piper

## A SHELTER IN THE TIME OF STORM

1. The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide,  
A shelter in the time of storm;  
Secure whatever ill betide,  
A shelter in the time of storm.

### Refrain

*Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,  
A weary land, a weary land;  
Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,  
A shelter in the time of storm*

2. A shade by day, defense by night,  
A shelter in the time of storm;  
No fears alarm, no foes affright,  
A shelter in the time of storm. **Refrain**
3. The raging storms may round us beat.  
A shelter in the time of storm;  
We'll never leave our safe retreat,  
A shelter in the time of storm. **Refrain**
4. O Rock divine, O Refuge dear,  
A shelter in the time of storm;  
Be Thou our helper ever near,  
A shelter in the time of storm.

## A SHIELD ABOUT ME

Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me  
You're my glory  
You're the lifter of my head.  
Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me  
You're my glory  
You're the lifter of my head.

### Chorus

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, You're the lifter of my head.

## HOLY SPIRIT, THOU ART WELCOME

Holy Spirit, Thou art welcome in this place  
Holy Spirit, Thou art welcome in this place  
Omnipotent Father of mercy and grace,  
Thou art welcome in this place.